

**Subject:** Councilmember Huizar's February 2020 CD14 Highlights

**From:** "Jose Huizar, CD 14"

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**To:** briseli.borquez@lacity.org

**Reply-to:**



**Council District 14, City of Los Angeles**

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**#TeamHuizar | [www.JoseHuizar.com](http://www.JoseHuizar.com)**



Greetings!

On Monday at Staples Center, the City of Los Angeles joined together in a heartfelt memorial celebration of the life of Kobe Bryant and those who were lost along with him in the tragic helicopter accident.

I am thankful that I had an opportunity to meet Kobe when I brought him to City Council on August 24, 2016, and we declared that day Kobe Bryant Day. He was an inspiration to many – and certainly to me. A number of amazing murals have gone up throughout Council District 14 in tribute to Kobe. I've included some of them in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

This month, my staff and I have been hard at work on quality of life issues. Recent upgrades at Eagle Rock Park have made the trails more usable for local residents. In Boyle Heights, the Green Alley Initiative is moving forward, as our motion requesting a grant for shade trees in Boyle Heights was passed by the City Council. In El Sereno, work began on the installation of a new sprinkler system along the median of Huntington Drive to benefit trees and plantings in the space.

Since the introduction of my Bringing Back Broadway initiative in 2008, the DTLA corridor has experienced an amazing turnaround. This month, I introduced a motion to study how a car-free Broadway could further the revitalization. We also announced that the phased construction approach we are beginning for the redesigned Pershing Square later this year. The open plan will transform the park into a vibrant city center, one that will serve all of Los Angeles.

My office has been hard at work on these and many other issues, and we highlight them in this month's newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you and working together toward a successful spring!

Sincerely,

José

## Table of Contents

- Two New Parks for Council District 14
- Car-Free Broadway Study
- Take Back the Boulevard Updates
- CD14 Sidewalk Repairs
- Pershing Square Renew
- Huntington Drive Median Repairs
- Homeless Connect Day Highland Park
- Second Bin Storage Location Opens in DTLA
- Boyle Heights Green Alley Initiative
- Community Safety
- Eagle Rock Park Improvements
- Street Lights
- Kobe Murals

## Two New Parks for Council District 14



The Statewide Park Program Grants under Proposition 68 offered over \$254.9 million in funding to create new parks and recreational opportunities in underserved communities throughout California.

Working with community partners, Recreation and Parks and the Trust for Public Land (TPL), Council District 14 was able to secure two new parks.

The grant stipulates that the park and park improvements must be completed in 2022. Recreation and Parks is looking to finalize the agreements with State Parks, complete plans and move forward with implementation in the next one to two months.

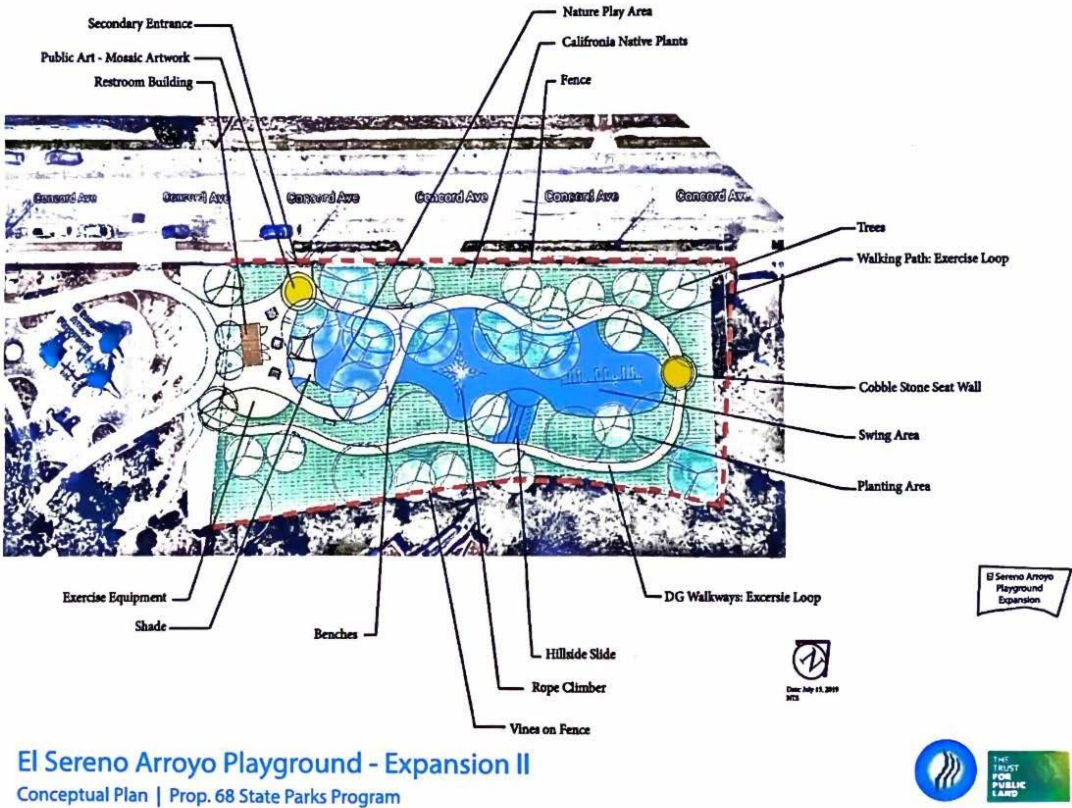




In Boyle Heights, the office worked with Recreation and Parks to apply for the grant funding. Together, we were successful in securing a \$5.2 million dollar grant for a future park. Brooklyn Heights Park will be located at 318 N. Mathews Street.

The grant facilitates the purchase of approximately a fifth of an acre. It will also fund construction of the park, including three playgrounds, shade structures, a walking path, public art, landscaping, and security lighting for the entirety of the park.

Community input was an important factor in securing the grant. Three meetings were held in July that gave constituents the opportunity for input on the design and amenities. The office will continue to work with Recreation and Parks on the next steps of the community process now that the grant has been awarded.



After Team Huizar secured a 25-year lease from CALTRANS for a vacant parcel at Lowell and Concord, our El Sereno field office worked with the Trust for Public (TPL) in 2012 to open the El Sereno Arroyo Playground.

After another successful collaboration with TPL and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), El Sereno has been awarded a grant through Prop 68. Working with TPL, Council District 14 was successful in securing a \$2.1 million dollar grant for the expansion of El Sereno Arroyo Playground through the Statewide Park Program Grant (Proposition 68).

The grant expands the park to the adjacent property. Funding facilitates the construction of a new playground, walking path, fitness area, public art, and restrooms. It will also fund landscaping, fencing, and security lighting throughout the park.

Community input played an important role in securing the grant. The El Sereno office facilitated numerous neighborhood meetings that gave stakeholders the opportunity for input on the design and amenities.

CD14 will continue to work with TPL, RAP, ESAP Vecinos, and all our partner organizations on future steps of the process.

These initiatives will add much needed recreation facilities to the Boyle Heights and El Sereno neighborhoods. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

## Car-Free Broadway Study





This month, Councilmember Huizar introduced a motion to explore the option of creating a car-free zone on Broadway in DTLA. The initiative acknowledges the uniqueness of Broadway and asks for a recommendation that will retain the historical culture of the area, while adding the benefit of walkable streets.

The Historic Broadway Theater District is an important National Register Historical District and is known as the birthplace of theatrical and cinematic entertainment in Los Angeles. Once considered the commercial and retail capital of the United States, the area has benefited from the revitalization of the Councilmember's 2008 Bringing Back Broadway initiative.

Policy changes, ordinances, and initiatives associated with the Councilmember's efforts have greatly improved the economic status of the area. Nine of the corridor's twelve historic theaters are now back in operation or have been repurposed into vibrant retail use. New entertainment options, hotels, bars, and restaurants have created a vibrant social scene. Broadway is back.

Market analysis shows that since 2010, the efforts have resulted in a 23% increase in average wages, a 52% increase in residents who live on Broadway, and gross receipts increased by 112%, bringing in over a billion dollars of new gross receipts revenues.

The Councilmember has introduced this motion to further aid in the development of the

historic corridor. It instructs the Economic and Workforce Development Department with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Transportation, and Department of City Planning to report on the feasibility of creating a car-free Broadway between 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Check out our media coverage: [KTLA](#), [CBS](#), [LA Curbed](#), [LAist](#), [Urbanize LA](#), and [Patch](#).

## Take Back the Boulevard Updates



In October, Council District 14, The Eagle Rock Association (TERA), and community leaders celebrated the groundbreaking of Phase 2 of our Take Back the Boulevard Initiative for Colorado Boulevard. Funding for the \$12 million project was secured through State and Metro grants.



Some of the improvements to Colorado will include sidewalk repair and replacement, ADA compliant ramps, new benches, new trash receptacles and rapid flashing beacons. Take Back the Boulevard improvements on Colorado are underway.

This month, the Bureau of Street Services affected sidewalk repairs and added ADA compliant ramps along Colorado Boulevard between Linda Rosa Street and Wiota Street.

Completion of Phase 2 elements will supplement the lively neighborhood of Eagle Rock and help to create a pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment for business and residents.

## CD14 Sidewalk Repairs



The City of Los Angeles has approximately 11,000 miles of sidewalks stretched over 472 square miles. Taking care of sidewalks in Los Angeles is a large undertaking. Fortunately, the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) is up to the task.

To help expedite repairs in Council District 14, Councilmember Huizar has allocated over a million dollars for sidewalk repairs. Under this program more than 150 sidewalks will be repaired in 2020. To date this year, more than 20 sidewalks have been repaired.

If you have any questions about repairs in your neighborhood, call your local Council District 14 office for more information.



# Pershing Square Renew



In 2015, a design competition received 50 applications for the redesign of Pershing Square, the City's oldest park. From there, ten semifinalists were chosen, and then four finalists. Agence Ter was chosen from the four finalists as the winning firm.

The new design will be implemented in a phased approach. Phases One and Two are focused on creating a more open, shaded, and accessible space.

Phase One will include the removal of barrier walls along Olive Street, opening the park to the street. More than 20 new shade trees will be planted at plaza and park edges along Olive Street, 5th Street, and 6th Street. Existing escalators will be replaced with open, day-lit glass elevators and a staircase to provide access from the plaza to all garage levels. A unified facility and wayfinding signage system will round out Phase One

upgrades.

Phase Two will begin immediately after completion of the first phase. It will consist of the removal of the barrier wall, tower, and aqueduct along Hill Street. A grand pedestrian promenade along Hill Street will be installed, complete with shade trees and hardscape. New open, day-lit elevators, and staircase will provide access to all garage levels from Hill Street. The area around the existing circular fountain will be converted to green, open space. This phase will also include a landscaped pet-care area.

Councilmember Huizar and the Department of Recreation and Parks worked together to secure the full \$25 million in funding necessary for the first two phases of the redesign.

It is anticipated that Phase One will begin construction by the end of 2020 with completion estimated by the end of 2022. Phase Two construction will begin once the first phase is completed. It is slated to finish early to mid-2024.

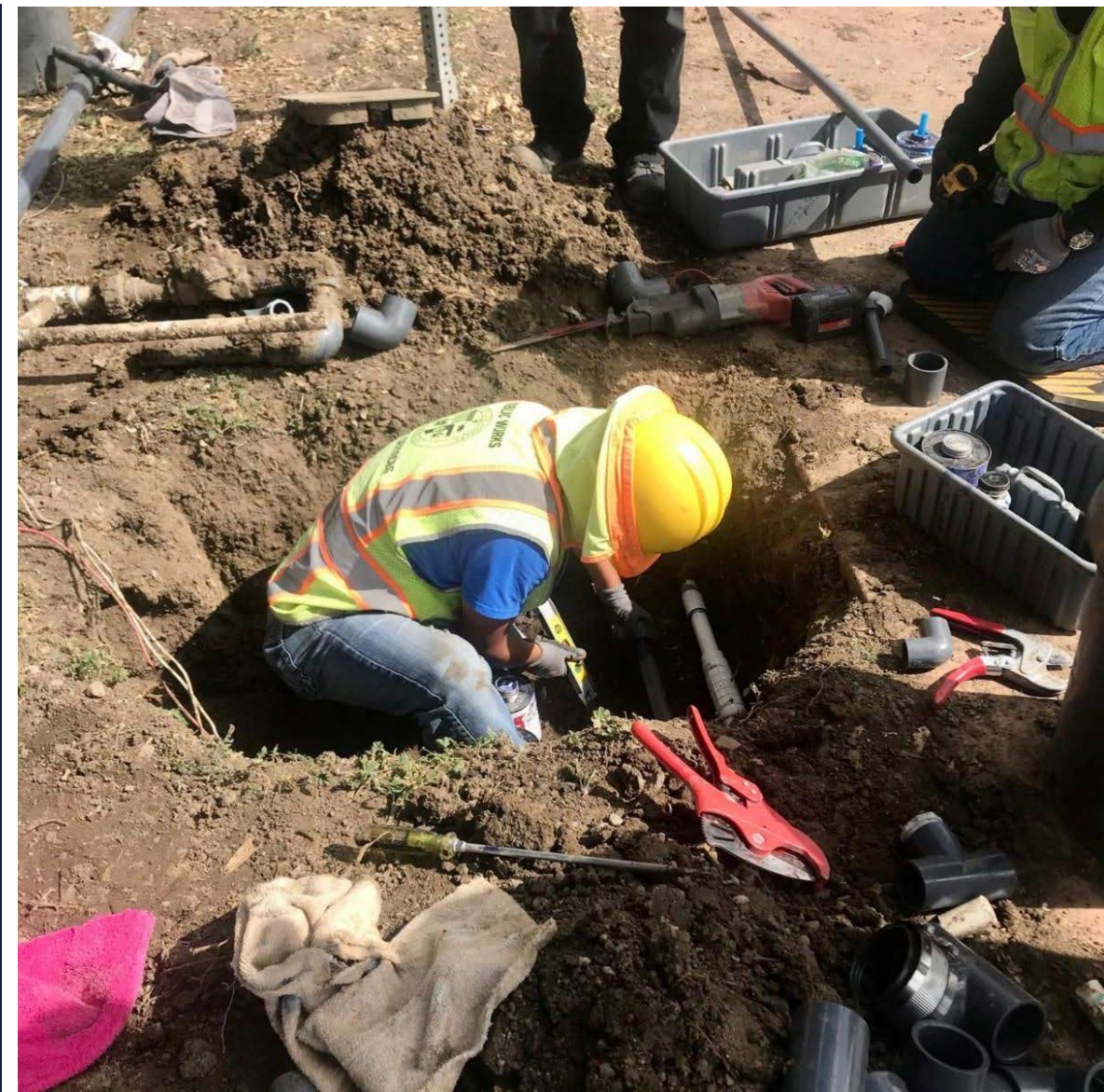
See more about this exciting project at [CBS Los Angeles](#), [LA Curbed](#), [LAist](#), [LA Downtown News](#) and [LACityview 35](#).

## Huntington Drive Median Repairs



Work recently started on the median on Huntington Drive in El Sereno. The first step was clearing the area. Crews are now in the process of repairing the irrigation system. This will allow for new grass to be planted. Once complete, the area will be an open green space for the community to enjoy.





**Homeless Connect Day Highland Park**



Council District 14 was proud to sponsor a Community Connect Day in Highland Park for people experiencing homelessness, in danger of becoming homeless, and for low income individuals.

There were many different services providers with linkages and resources for housing, mental health, substance issues, and health care. Programs onsite also included medical, Cal Fresh, Social Security, and Metro, as well as free haircuts, lunch, ID vouchers, health screenings, vaccines - and more.

## Second Bin Storage Location Opens in DTLA





Storage of personal items is an issue for those experiencing homelessness in our City. On Skid Row, this problem is compounded by the number of people on the street.

On December 11, 2019 the City Council approved Councilmember Huizar's motion directing \$1.6 million to create and operate a second homeless storage facility. In February of 2020, the location opened increasing the storage capacity for the homeless in Skid Row from 1,550 to 2,550 bins.

"Expanded storage options mean that individuals can now secure their belongings. The importance of this cannot be understated. Safe storage means that what needs to be done can be done - looking for a job, attending training and education, receiving services, or seeking shelter - all of these things are far easier when an individual doesn't have to carry their possessions with them everywhere they go," said the Councilmember. "It's clear that each action we take is a piece that fits into a larger puzzle. It's equally clear that each piece represents a life that matters."

Nonprofit Chrysalis manages the Bin locations. Access is provided Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chrysalis is dedicated to creating a pathway to self-sufficiency for people experiencing homelessness and low-income individuals by providing the resources and support needed to prepare for, find, and retain employment. It currently employs 25 of their clients at the Bin locations to provide safe storage for the homeless community.

## Boyle Heights Green Alley Initiative



The City Council recently passed a motion authorizing the Bureau of Sanitation to submit a grant application and receive funds to plant 500 shade trees, remove 4,800 square feet of concrete, and provide water and maintenance for the trees in Boyle Heights. It will also capture storm-water runoff and improve walk-ability in the neighborhood. This is part of a larger package of initiatives designed to improve the communities of Council District 14.

The grant funds are from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (Proposition 68) which was passed by voters on June 5, 2018. The proposition authorized the Legislature to appropriate \$18.5 million to the California Natural Resources Agency for competitive grants for green infrastructure investments that benefit disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.

## Community Safety





The safety of our neighborhoods is important. In addition to LAPD patrols, many neighborhoods have found unique ways to notify neighbors and keep crimes to a minimum.

Team Huizar attended the February Business Watch Meeting for the El Sereno neighborhood at Antigua Bread, along with local businesses to talk about community concerns. LAPD joined the conversation as well, providing crime reports for the area and answering additional LAPD-related questions. Attendance was great, and the meeting was a success.

At Coffee with a Cop at the Highland Park Starbucks on York Blvd. community members came together to speak with LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chang. Discussion focused on the community and how to work together to enhance the lives and safety of everyone in Highland Park.

Thank you to all of our community members who are active in these events. The results are safer neighborhoods for all.



Eagle Rock Park Improvements





The Department of Recreation and Parks has completed installing new safety guardrails along the walking path in Eagle Rock Park!

The park's three tennis courts will also receive updates including resurfacing, new fencing, and new lights. Currently in the design stage, these updates will incorporate ADA accessibility to the hillside courts. Stay tuned for further updates.

Last year, Councilmember Huizar was able to secure \$525,000 in order to cover the cost of these repairs.

## Street Lights



Throughout the City we have heard reports of broken or non-functioning street lights. Additionally, copper theft also contributes to this problem.

Since 2006, wire and power theft has cost the City over \$10 million. The Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) has dedicated staff and funding to prevent this practice and conduct repair where theft has occurred. But, with the high volume of incidents, BSL has a growing list of backlogged locations that require immediate attention.

On Friday, February 28th Councilmember Huizar introduced a motion asking for BSL to report on the current backlog. The report will include the number of lights out, the number of locations with copper wire theft, and the current average repair time. BSL has also been instructed to report back with recommendations on what can be done to address the backlog. Recommendations may include additional crews and resources, re-deployments, and other options to expedite service repairs moving forward.

## Kobe Murals

In Council District 14, local artists have been honoring Kobe through their art. Below are some of the amazing tribute murals in CD14.

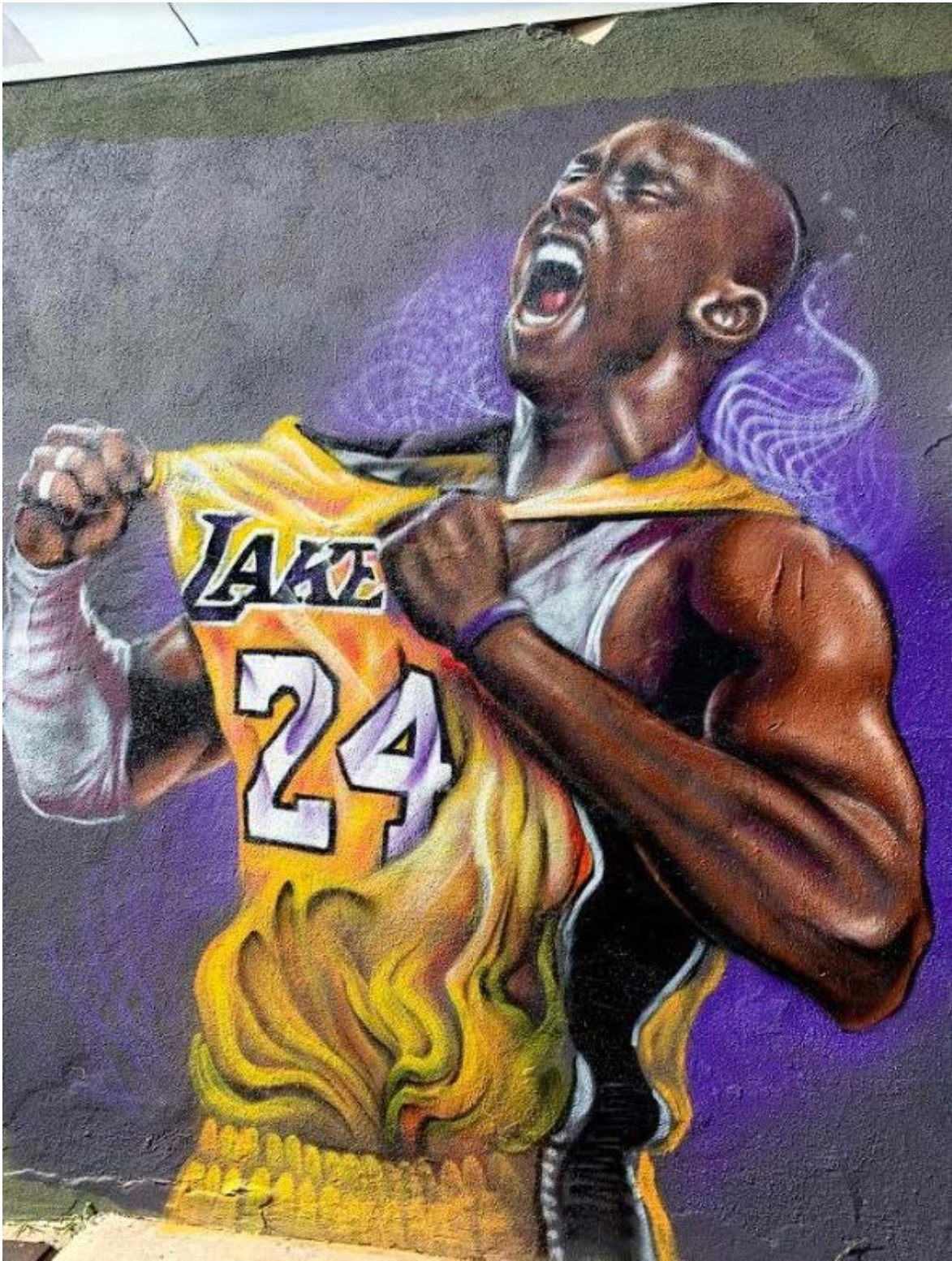




Near Matthews and Whittier in Boyle Heights

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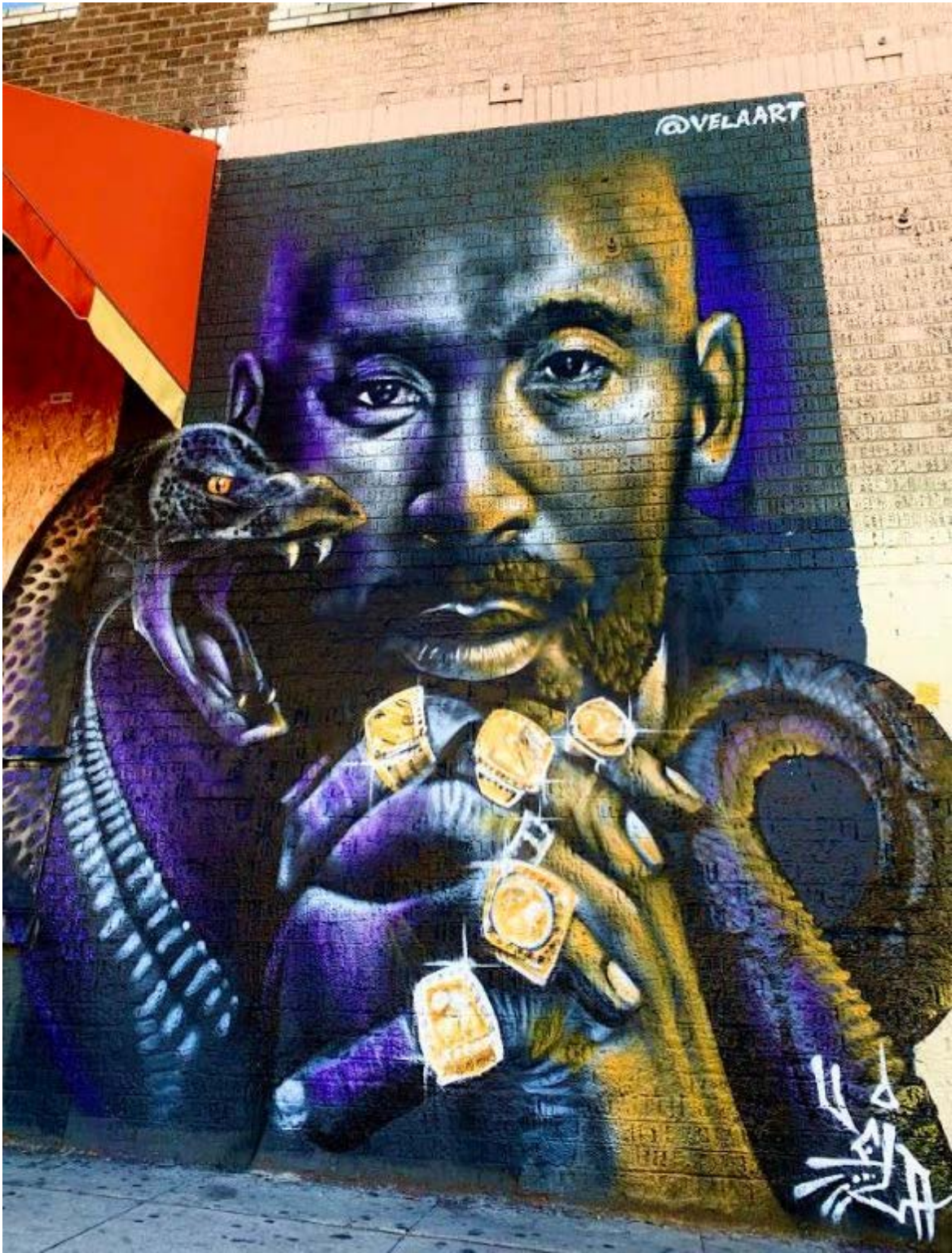




Near 4th and Euclid in Boyle Heights

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Chicago and Cesar Chavez in Boyle Heights



1430 E. Cesar Chavez in Boyle Heights

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Eastern Avenue and Gambier Street in El Sereno



2200 N. Soto St. 90032 (Village Mart & Deli) in El Sereno

Help the community!

Volunteer Now!



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Jose Huizar, CD 14 | 200 N. Spring Street, Room 465, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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